Contracts for explorating drilling

54. SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the contracts for exploratory drilling in the offshore block;

(b) if so, the names of the places where the contractors are to start the drilling work;

(c) what are the terms and conditions of the contracts; and

(d) by when the work will be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Progress of HBJ Pipeline Project

55. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether HBJ Pipeline project is progressing as per the schedule;

(b) by when it is expected to be completed and commissioned;

(c) whether various downstream projects on the HBJ Pipeline are also progressing simultaneously so as to synchronise the use by them of natural gas to be supplied through HBJ Pipeline when the HBJ Project is ready to deliver the same, if not by when the downstream projects will be ready to use the gas; and

(d) whether the clearance of any industrial complex based on gas is held up at the Central Government's level, if so, what are the snags in clearing the same and how soon is it expected to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The HBJ Pipeline Project is by and large progressing as per the schedule and is expected to be completed by the scheduled completion date of July 1989. Delays are indicated in the commissioning of some of the downstream projects and therefore, alternative uses of gas are being explored.

(d) GAIL are in the process of finalising a project for extraction of LPG and propane along the pipeline.

Time and cost overruns of Super Thermal Power Projects

56. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many on-going Central Sector power projects, costing over Rs. 20 crores each have had cost overruns and what is the total of such cost overruns;

(b) whether it is a fact that Farakka, Korba, Singrauli and Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Projects have had a huge overrun of time and also a cost overrun of about Rs. 1695 crores; and

(c) whether overall accountability and completion responsibility within the original estimates was